East Westmoreland, N. H.,
Nov. 28, 1863.

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Dear Garrison:

Your circular and letter of the 23 inst., inviting me to be present at the Decade celebration in the City of Philadelphia on the 3 & 4th of Decr. prosimo, was received; and as I shall be denied the pleasure of being present in person, to participate in the proceedings of that memorable and joyous occasion, allow me, Dear Sir, through you, to congratulate the veteran pioneers and faithful coadjutors in meeting each other again, after a long and arduous warfare, in the "City of

brotherly love," where, thirty years ago, they met to inaugurate the grandest and most sublime movement since the Christian era. Being based, not on expediency but on principle, and depending, not on numbers but on the truth and the justness of their cause, they could not but have the sanction and approval of a just God and all-wise Ruler of the of Universe; and relying on His all-potent arm for aid, their ultimate success could be but a question of time; and although many of the loved and dearly-remembered ones, co-laborers in this humanitary and heaven-approved enterprise, have fallen in the midst of the "irrepressible conflict," yet it has pleased the all-wise and

merciful Father, graciously to
spare the precious life of him,
who, under God, was the first
to call to repentance this guilty
and oppressive nation — "to undo
the heavy burdens, to break every
yoke and let the oppressed go free";
and 'tho' one after another of the
faithful ones has fallen, battling
nobly in the true heroic and
martyr spirit, for the deliverance
of the oppressed, "remembering them
in bonds as bound with them",
yet others, catching the spirit of
the noble dead, have risen up
as new recruits to fill the ranks
and help carry forward to final
completion the great work so
nobly begun. The occasion
will be a rare one for those
who have consecrated the strength
of their years and manhood
in the cause of the oppressed.

Those who will be gathered there to greet each other again and renew old acquaintance, will gather new strength and new inspiration to press on to final victory this mighty death-grapple with the legions and powers of darkness. The true friends of immediate emancipation and universal freedom have abundant cause of rejoicing and hope in view of what has already been accomplished as the result of their faithful and indefatigable labors; "but the end is not yet." Slavery is a monster tenacious of life; but the harpoons of truth have been thrown by skillful hands and the hideous monster is now writhing in his death-throes. Hitherto, our cause has been unpopular, but now its advocates and friends may be counted by many thousands; since, to be such, no longer endangers one's reputation or popularity; yet coming

in at the eleventh hour" they shall recieve their penny." Recounting

on this occasion, as you certainly will, the marvellous changes in the public mind and heart in this nation in regard to this great question of the age, you may very pertinently ask, "What hath God wrought?" Thanking God for his favor and help in the past, let us gird up afresh with unfaltering fidelity and hope for the last decisive and final victory over the serried hosts of darkness, conscious that our duty is not done and our work complete until the last fetter is broken from the limbs of the last slave in the land. Let every true abolitionist be encouraged, now that the North has been aroused and has leaped to "arms" and marshaled its hosts to vindicate our cause and the

rights of humanity in "black and white!" Let every heart and hand be quickened to new zeal and activity in the meritorious work of redeeming humanity from the iron grasp of tyrants & oppressors.

Let us all be hopeful that God, after having sufficiently chastened us, as a nation, for our pride, avarice, ambition, ingratitude and oppression, will yet bring us out of this fiery ordeal a united, prosperous and happy people, to be in the future, not a warning but an example to all the nations of the earth.

Feeling it an honor, of which I am not worthy, to have my humble name linked with the noble and honored champions of impartial and universal freedom, and praying that God's blessing may attend your gathering,

I am, with much esteem,

Your fellow-laborer, Jehiel Claflin.